(c) Employment is the thrust area *of* the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Plan emphasises the need for a high
' rate of economic growth cr^nabifled with faster growth of sectors, sub-eectors, and areas which have relatively high employment potential tor enhancing the pace of employment generation. Geographically crapu.'wise diversified agricultural development, wasteland development and forestry, developaanent of rural
. nwiKfarm sector and rural urfraEtruc-tee, faster growth of small: and decentralised: manufectarfeg and, expansion of housing, are the bafcic elements of the employment-oriented growth strategy envisaged in the plan. The additional employment opportunities likely to be generated are excected to benefit the educated as welL

Mexging of ESI with provident fttnd scheme

4775. SHRI J. P. JAVALI Will the Minister Of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) -whether it is a fact that efforts have been made to abolish the so called 'Inspector Raj' to free the small industries sectors from the harassment and corruption;

(b) if so. the details thereof;

(c) whether ESX scheme also is looked into since it is not serving the purpose for which it was meant; and

(d) whether Government would consider merging this scheme with that of Provident Fund?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MBiESTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The various labour laws provide for appointment of inspectors to ensure compliance by managements of the provisions of the respective laws. There is no proposal to do away with the inspectors.

(b) 'Does not arise.

(c) The ESI Scheme provides, for medical care in kind and papnent of cash benefits in the contingencies of sickness, maternity, disablement and death due to employment injury. The working of the ESI Seheme is generally satifactory. However spo radic complaints are recieved about inadequated /unsatistactory fmedlcal care under the ESI Scheme.

The KSl scheme is being administered by the ESI Corporation Which is a corporate body comprising repre. sentatives of meployers employees, Government and Parifehaent. The Corporation meets atleast twice in a year o ensure smooth functioning of the Scheme

The administration of medical care under ESI Scheme is the statutory responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory administration. However, it is also reviewed by a General Purposes Sub-Commit. tee of the Corporation, and by the Regional Boards and Local Committees.

(d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Govern. ment for merger of the ESI Scheme with the EPF Sctieme.

New offices for Regional Provident Fund Commissioner

4776. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWA-MY; Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is aaj plan to open new offices of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner in Delhi;

(b) what are the areas selected to open these offices;

(c) what has been the criteria for selecting these offices;

(d) whether it is a fact that EPFC's 'Office has advertised for space for
new offices;